

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DIWY-01 OES-03 PA-01 CU-02 INR-07 LOC-01

COME-00 EB-07 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

IO-10 /053 W

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R 301750Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1588

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EIND, PGOV, SHUM, CS

SUBJECT: WOMAN TO SERVE ON COSTA RICAN SUPREME COURT

1. IT APPEARS THAT COSTA RICA WILL SOON HAVE A FEMALE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT. ANABELLA CASTRO, CHIEF OF THE PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, IN THE COURSE OF A LONG CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICERS ABOUT PATENT LEGISLATION, CONFIDED THAT SHE HAS BEEN ASKED WHETHER SHE WOULD BE WILLING TO BE APPOINTED AS A JUSTICE OF THE COSTA RICAN SUPREME COURT. SHE HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT AND EXPECTS TO BE APPOINTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MISS CASTRO SAID THAT SHE DID NOT KNOW

WHETHER HER APPOINTMENT HAS ANY CONNECTION WITH THE FACT THAT THIS IS THE "UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR."

2. MISS CASTRO IS A VIVACIOUS, INTELLIGENT AND HIGH COMPETENT OFFICIAL WHOSE LIFE-LONG INTEREST IN INVENTIONS LED HER NATURALLY INTO WORK ON PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS. SHE SAID THAT SHE WILL VERY MUCH REGRET LEAVING A FIELD THAT STILL HOLDS SO MUCH INTEREST FOR

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HER, BUT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HER IMPORTANT NEW

ASSIGNMENT. SHE HOPES, HOWEVER, TO BE ABLE TO AVOID
THE STAIID AND ALOOF STATUS OF THE TRADITIONAL JUDGE.
SHE AGREED THAT SHE MIGHT BE A "NEW STYLE" JUDGE.

3. HER EXPERTISE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED HERE ON
PATENT AND COPYRIGHT MATTERS, BUT IN VIEW OF THE POSSI-
BILITY THAT SOME ASPECTS OF PENDING PATENT LEGISLATION
MIGHT BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL, IT COULD ALSO PROVE USEFUL
TO HAVE A PERSON OF HER KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUPREME COURT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPREME COURT, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, JUDGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO04130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750339-0511
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975091/aaaaaaez.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WOMAN TO SERVE ON COSTA RICAN SUPREME COURT
TAGS: EGEN, EIND, PGOV, SHUM, CS, (CASTRO, ANABELLA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006